

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully acknowledge receipt of the First Office Action mailed August 24, 2004. In the First Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 1-4 as to clarity and antecedent basis issues, and rejected claims 1-5 under §102(b) as anticipated by Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) or Japanese Application No. JP 202 124340 (*JP '340*). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

By this amendment, Applicants amend claims 1-4. Claims 1-5 are pending. Of these claims, claim 1 is independent.

I. OBJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-4

Claims 1-4 stand objected to because of a few informalities.

With regard to claim 1, Applicants have amended the claim herein. Applicants have amended the limitation "not to be contacted to the bus bar circuit except the pressure welding edge," to read "such that the cable can contact the pressure welding edge but not the bus bar circuit."

With regard to claims 2-4, Applicants have amended the claims to address any antecedent basis issues.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set.

II. 102(b) REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-5

Claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (*AAPA*) or Japanese Application No. JP 202 124340 (*JP '340*). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Amended claim 1 recites in pertinent part "a lower cable support rib disposed on the cable wiring surface for supporting the cable such that the cable can contact the pressure welding edge but not the bus bar circuit."

The Examiner asserted *AAPA* or *JP '340* teaches a bracket comprising a connector housing having a cable wiring surface onto which a cable is wired, a bus bar circuit disposed in an exposed state on the cable wiring surface, a pressure welding edge formed on the bus bar circuit for connecting the cable to the bus bar circuit by pressure welding, and a lower cable support rib disposed on the cable wiring surface for supporting the cable.

In order to properly anticipate Applicants' claimed invention under 35 U.S.C. §102, each and every element of the claim in issue must be found, "either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." "The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the . . . claim. *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989)." See M.P.E.P. § 2131, 8th ed., 2001.

JP '340 teaches a flat cable (20) contacting a bus bar circuit disposed on the cable wiring surface of the connector housing (12). Although *JP '340* discloses two wire holding ribs (14a, 14b), the ribs do not prevent the cable from contacting the bus bar circuit, rather they just clamp the cable down in place. As shown in Applicant's Figure 10, the lower cable support rib (31) prevents the cable (10) from contacting the bus bar

circuit (17). Accordingly, since neither *AAPA* nor *JP '340* discloses or suggests **a lower cable support rib disposed on the cable wiring surface for supporting the cable such that the cable can contact the pressure welding edge but not the bus bar circuit**, as recited in amended claim 1, the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is improper and should be withdrawn.

Claims 2-5 depend from claim 1 and are allowable at least for the same reasons claim 1 is allowable. Reconsideration is requested.

III. CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Rejected dependent Claims 2-5 are also in condition for allowance by virtue of their dependency.

The Office Action contains characterizations of the claims and the related art with which Applicants do not necessarily agree. Unless expressly noted otherwise, Applicants decline to subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

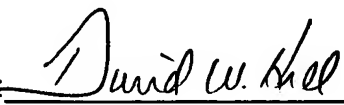
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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